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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7237
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RUCPDO/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUYNAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RHHMHBA/COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N541// PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI//CC/PA// PRIORITY
RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/USFJ PRIORITY
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 7232
RUEHNH/AMCONSUL NAHA 9588
RUEHNAG/AMCONSUL NAGOYA 4466
RUEHKSO/AMCONSUL SAPPORO 7744
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 1051
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 1689
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 3068
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 8347
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 7855
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC

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SIPDIS

STATE FOR I/RF, PA/PR/FPC/W, IIP/G/EA, EAP/PD, R/MR, EAP/J, EAP/P,
PM;
USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;
TREASURY FOR OASIA/IMI;
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA;
CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;
PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - AFGHANISTAN AND NORTH KOREA

11. LEAD STORIES: Wednesday morning's Tokyo Shimbun led with the finding that a senior SDF officer assigned to the MOD Defense Intelligence Headquarters divulged information to his colleagues in April concerning the dates of unannounced inspections of the headquarters by a special MOD unit.

12. "Concerns in U.S. about Afghanistan Becoming Second Vietnam" The top-circulation, moderate Yomiuri wrote (11/4): "Confusion in Afghanistan that lasted two and a half months came to an end following the victory declaration by President Karzai. But since the Taliban concurrently 'declared victory' by effectively preventing a runoff presidential election from taking place, the new administration got off to a bitter start. President Obama is considering committing additional troops despite mounting concerns [in the U.S.] that Afghanistan is becoming another 'Vietnam,' given the stalemate that has lasted for the past 8 years."

13. "Utmost Support Should Be Provided to Assist Reconstruction" The conservative Sankei editorialized (11/4): "It is regrettable that the runoff election was canceled because it would have been evidence of the legitimacy of a new administration.... Now is the time for the international community to unite and support the reconstruction of Afghanistan.... President Karzai stated clearly that he aims to 'forge a government based on national unity.' What is required on the part of Afghanistan is not words, but governing capabilities that can live up to the support and expectations of the international community."

14. "North Korea Ups the Ante with Negotiations in Mind" On the recent DPRK announcement that it successfully completed the reprocessing of some 8,000 spent nuclear fuel rods in August, the business-oriented Nikkei stated in a correspondent's report from Seoul (11/4): "The announcement means that North Korea has extracted enough plutonium to assemble one nuclear weapon. Given that the DPRK declared in June 2008 that it had extracted some 30 kilograms of

plutonium, the latest announcement did not significantly alter the nuclear crisis [on the Korean Peninsula]. As North Korea appears to be moving toward dialogue with Japan and South Korea while pleading for negotiations with the U.S., the chances are high that it was using 'brinkmanship' in order to win negotiating leverage."

15. "North Korea Trumpets Capabilities to Produce More Nuclear Weapons" The moderate Yomiuri reported from Seoul (11/4): "The announcement [concerning the completion of reprocessing] came immediately after the meetings between the U.S. and the DPRK in the U.S. It was clear that the purpose of the declaration by North Korea was to set the stage for direct negotiations with the U.S. Displaying its capability to assemble additional nuclear weapons, North Korea underscored the urgent necessity for U.S.-DPRK consultations, and appears set to press Washington to promptly come to the negotiating table."

ROOS